

Health News Release

For immediate release: August 12, 2011 (11-122)

Contacts: Gordon MacCracken, Communications Office 360-236-4072

Drug allegation results in King County veterinarian's suspension

Charges say woman was intoxicated, unconscious in her Kirkland clinic

OLYMPIA — The Veterinary Board of Governors and the Washington State Department of Health have immediately suspended the license of Kirkland veterinarian Cathy A. Johnson-Delaney (VT.00002784) because of drug abuse allegations.

According to the statement of charges, on multiple occasions Johnson-Delaney took isoflourine, an inhaled anesthetic. It made her intoxicated and unconscious while she was in her veterinary clinic, the charges say.

She cannot practice or work as a veterinarian in Washington pending the outcome of a hearing.

Consumers who believe a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call the Department of Health at 360-236-4700 to report their complaint. A <u>complaint form is also online</u> (www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/documents/complaint.pdf). The form can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the agency's Health Systems Quality Assurance division.

The Department of Health protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to people in Washington.

The <u>Department of Health website</u> (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.